



Come Home. School Together.

## Before You Launch: Exploring SchoolhouseTeachers.com

*A Practical Guide for Prospective Schoolhouse Directors*

This guide is the first step in your journey as a Schoolhouse Director. Before thinking about families, co-ops, or logistics, it's essential to become comfortable with the backbone of every Schoolhouse: [SchoolhouseTeachers.com](https://www.schoolhouseteachers.com). The remaining guides—*Ready to Launch*, *Building Your Community*, and *Your Launch Day Success*—will make much more sense once you've mastered this foundation.

By the end of this guide, you will have:

- Logged in to the platform
- Explored several ways to find and preview courses
- Created a short list of favorites you could recommend
- Gained confidence in directing families to specific tools

### Why SchoolhouseTeachers.com?

As the foundation of every Church Schoolhouse, [SchoolhouseTeachers.com](https://www.schoolhouseteachers.com) provides everything you need to guide families and lead classes confidently. Here are some key features:

- **Pre-K–Grade 12, Christian, self-paced curriculum:** Over 400 courses spanning all grades and subjects
- **Courses for both individual and group settings:** Perfect for family learning or teaching a class at your Schoolhouse
- **One membership covers the entire family:** Unlimited access for every grade and every child at home and at the Schoolhouse
- **Parent-led:** Parents are the teachers, we supply the tools
- **Text-first, media-enhanced:** Most lessons come as downloadable PDFs, with audio, video, or interactive extras where needed
- **Flexible access:** PDFs and slideshows can be saved for offline use

- **Lesson-ready:** Each course includes a suggested lesson plan and resources to keep you on track
- **Bonus resources included:** Access to RightNow Media, World Book Online, AppleCore (for record keeping), and a growing list of iST courses to enrich your curriculum and expand learning opportunities

## Navigating the Platform

### Step 1: Log In

Getting started is simple. Follow these steps to access all the available resources.

1. Go to [SchoolhouseTeachers.com](https://SchoolhouseTeachers.com).
2. Click **Login** (top right corner).
3. Enter the email and password connected to your membership.
4. Once logged in, you'll see your **Member Dashboard**.

*Tip: Bookmark the login page so you can find it quickly. Click “remember me” to save your login credentials for two weeks.*

### Step 2: Understanding the Member Dashboard

Your Member Dashboard is your personal hub at [SchoolhouseTeachers.com](https://SchoolhouseTeachers.com). It's where you get started, keep track of favorites, stay updated on events, and unlock exclusive member perks.

- **New Members (default view):** Get started quickly with links to *Pathways*, *All Courses*, and *Tutorials*.
- **My Account:** Manage your membership details and download your customizable *Teacher and Student ID cards*.
- **My Bookmarks:** Keep all your bookmarked courses in one easy-to-find list.
- **Activities & Community:** Stay informed about upcoming events and connect with other homeschooling families through the Schoolhouse Community on Facebook.
- **Member Perks:** Access exclusive bonuses, opportunities, and a rotating collection of free resources in the *Member Premium* area.
- **Leave a Review:** Share your experience to encourage other families and help us improve.

### Step 3: Explore the Menu Bar

Think of the blue menu bar as your “front door.” This is where you'll find the main entry points into the SchoolhouseTeachers.com site.

- **Record Keeping:** Access the *Records Center*, including the Education Plan Builder, Letter of Intent template, Portfolio tools, Schoolhouse Gradebook, and Applecore.
- **Courses:** Explore the curriculum through *All Courses*, *View by Grade* or *Subject*, or dive into specialized areas like *School Boxes*, *iST Courses*, *Course Samples*, *Focused Learning Centers*, and *Unit Studies*.

- **Planning:** Find the tools to organize your homeschool: *Getting Started Guides, Parent Resources, Planners and Calendars, Tutorials, ST Community, Latest News, and Help Charts.*
- **Smart Start:** Explore Learning Pathways to help families make the most of their memberships.
- **Videos:** Browse the full line of RightNow Media's 25,000 family-friendly streaming videos across many subjects and age groups.
- **World Book:** Find a full digital library with encyclopedias, activities, and learning tools for every grade.
- **International:** Access resources and information tailored for members outside the United States.

*Pro Tip: Always start with the Courses tab. Everything else supports the course content.*

You will find more links in the very top menu bar, if needed:

- Help: Including FAQs and Customer Service
- About: Our beginnings, lesson designers, and staff
- Affiliates: Specialized resources for sharing about [SchoolhouseTeachers.com](http://SchoolhouseTeachers.com)
- Log In/Out button
- Member Dashboard link

## Step 4: Search for Courses

With over 400 courses available, searching can feel overwhelming at first. That's why SchoolhouseTeachers.com offers several easy ways to browse—by grade, by subject, or through complete course lists—so you can quickly find exactly what your family needs.

- [View by Grade](#): Pick a grade (Pre-K–12) to see all subjects at that level.
- [View by Subject](#): Select a subject (Math, Science, Bible, History, etc.,) to see all courses across grades
- [All Courses](#): Find a subject-based master list. Click on a subject button (like Math, History, Science) to open an accordion-style menu showing the courses in that subject, organized alphabetically.
  - [Quick Links: All Courses](#): A simple scrollable list of every course on one page; organized alphabetically by subject, without buttons or drop-downs.
- [Course Information](#): Download or view lists online (PDFs are updated every six months):
  - [Course Components Page](#): Download a PDF showing which courses have video, audio, or interactive features.
  - [Course Directory Page](#): Download the master list of all courses.
  - [Courses by Grade Level Page](#): Download a table showing courses organized by subject and grade level.

Example:

- If a parent asks, “What’s available for 5th grade math?” → Go to Courses → View by Grade → Grade 5 → Math.
- If a teen is interested in government → Go to Courses → View by Subject → Social Studies → American Government or Biblical Philosophy of Government.

# Tips & Tricks for Course Exploration

## Bookmarking

At the top of each course page, you can use your browser's bookmark feature to save favorites. For example, create folders labeled "Elementary," "Middle School," and "High School" to stay organized.

Each lesson page also includes a bookmark option. Under the Bookmark Me section, click "Add to Collection" or "New Collection" to save the course. All bookmarks are stored in your Member Dashboard. For step-by-step help, see the [Bookmarks Tutorial](#).

## Discovering Focused Learning Centers

Our [Focused Learning Centers](#) serve as hubs that gather courses by topic or approach, making it simple to find exactly what you need. Explore options such as:

- **Preschool Playground**
- **Charlotte Mason Center**
- **Biblical Classical Education**
- **Special Needs**
- **STEM Center**
- **High School Help** (includes transcripts and graduation helps)
- **And many more!**

## Using the Search Bar

There is a search option at the top of every page. Enter a keyword like "fractions," "Civil War," or "apologetics" to see results showing courses and lessons across the site.

## Previewing Courses

Every course includes two main parts: a Course Landing Page and a Lessons Page. The landing page gives you the big picture, while the Lessons Page provides the day-to-day details. You can view landing pages without logging in, but you must be logged in to access the lessons pages.

Each Course Landing Page Includes:

- Overview of the course content
- Downloadable lesson plan (fillable PDF—save first before typing)
- Additional information about the course
- Sample (if available)
- Links to the lessons

Each Course Lesson Page Includes:

- Downloadable lesson plan (fillable PDF—save first before typing)
- Resources to complete the course (lessons, answer keys, etc.)
- Accordion folders, if present, may be clicked to view additional resources such as worksheets, videos, or audio.

Note: The lesson plans are flexible. They are designed to guide learning, whether teaching a class with multiple families at a Schoolhouse or using the courses at home. Feel free to adapt, modify, or reimagine it to fit your group's dynamics, unique needs, goals, and schedule.

*Tip: If you want to see a quick sample without going to individual landing pages, check the [Course Samples](#) page (under Courses) for all available course samples. Please note: Some courses do not have a sample.*

## Quick Scripts (for when you teach parents)

“Here’s how I find a course for my seventh grader: I click Courses → View by Grade → Grade 7 → pick a subject. It’s all laid out clearly.”

“Want video content? Let’s download the [Course Components table](#) so we know exactly which ones have supplemental videos.”

“This [Literacy Center](#), linked from [Focus on Reading](#), is gold—it walks families step-by-step from pre-reading to fourth-grade comprehension.”

“Remember, your [SchoolhouseTeachers.com](#) membership covers your entire family, allows you to attend any Schoolhouse in your area, and includes unlimited access to all the SchoolhouseTeacher.com resources at home. You can continue learning throughout the week, work on electives, or dive deeper into subjects beyond what’s offered at the Schoolhouse.”

## Step 5: Discover More and Start Preparing

Now that you’re familiar with the platform and comfortable navigating courses, it’s time to explore additional resources, see the full range of member perks, and start preparing sample courses to showcase what’s possible for families at your Schoolhouse.

### 1. Explore Beyond Courses

- Visit the [Records Center](#) for offline transcripts and grade tracking.
- Try out [Parent Resources](#) and [Pathways](#)—these are ready-made guides for families

### 2. Check the Member Perks

- [World Book Online](#) (encyclopedia access worth \$250/year)
- [AppleCore](#) (digital record keeping and report cards)
- [RightNow Media](#) (Christian streaming library)
- [iST Courses](#) (a growing list of fun, interactive learning options, expanding every year)

### 3. Create a Showcase List

- Choose 2–3 sample courses for each age group (elementary, middle, high school).
- Be ready to show parents what's possible—but stay flexible. Sometimes another parent will be excited to lead a course you hadn't planned on.

## Final Encouragement

Exploring [SchoolhouseTeachers.com](https://SchoolhouseTeachers.com) is more than a technical first step—it's the heart of your role as a Director. Every family you serve will rely on your ability to guide them to solid, Bible-based courses and resources that meet their children's needs. The time you've spent clicking, searching, bookmarking, and exploring will pay off the first time a mom asks, "Do you have something for my struggling reader?" or a dad asks, "What about high school science?"

You now know where to look and how to guide them. That confidence will ripple throughout your Schoolhouse, giving parents peace of mind and students a strong foundation.

Take a moment to celebrate this milestone—you've already begun leading by learning. With the basics in place, you are ready to move into the next guide, *Ready to Launch*, where we'll walk step-by-step through locking in your church partnership, finding families, and hosting your first informational meeting—all grounded in the confidence you've now gained. We're praying for your success!

**Questions along the way? Email [Directors@SchoolhouseTeachers.com](mailto:Directors@SchoolhouseTeachers.com)**—we're here to support you every step of this journey.